

Church News

Lanark, Ill.

Our Christmas offering from our Sunday-school for Chicago Mission was \$32.34 and was given by the different classes as follows:

Busy Bees	Mrs. Livengood, teacher	\$1.24
Little Gleaners	Sister N. W. Sword, teacher	2.07
Willing Hearts	" Kitty Lichty "	1.82
Boys Brigade	" Emma Puterbaugh "	2.57
Willing Workers	" Alma Dubbel "	2.39
Sunbeams	" Alice Gordon "	1.64
Star	Miss Emma Puterbaugh "	3.60
Banner	Bro. Ben Sheller "	.76
Brother E. E. Dubbel's class		6.10
Sister Lizzie Brenneman's class		2.97
Brother Harry Hepfer's class		1.15
Bible class		6.03

Total, \$32.34

Our attendance for this Sunday was 118; our average attendance for December was 135; for the last quarter, 132; for the year, 131. Two-thirds of our school is children between the ages of three and fifteen years. We are glad to report, too, that *grown people* go to Sunday-school here and this is one of the reasons why our school keeps up a good average. You know work goes so much better for children when parents say come on children than if they say go on without us. Parents you should always *lead* not *drive*. If your children are indifferent about Sunday-school work without you just try it awhile by saying come on children we will all go to Sunday-school today and see how soon they feel an interest in the work.

B. F. PUTERBAUGH.

Conemaugh, Pa.

Occasionally a congregation have it in for their pastor, and like to take him on surprise. On the evening of Dec. 12, '98, while the snow was falling fast and while Brother Hayes and his wife, myself and family were enjoying a conversation, footsteps were heard on the porch and soon came filing in our Moxham brethren and sisters until thirty-three came in with such things as made glad the hearts of the preacher and his family; and among the many articles brought us was an elegant study chair for the pastor. After the surprise quieted down a little brother J. C. Hilderbrand made a very appropriate presentation speech which was followed by a broken and feeble acceptance speech by the preacher. We fail to find words to express our gratitude to the kind hearts that took part in the donation. May God richly bless them in their labors of love and their undertakings for good. The evening was pleasantly spent by both instrumental and vocal music and profitable conversation. While it seemed blessed for us to receive, the Bible says it is more blessed to give and I trust that they will receive the divine blessing for so cheerfully giving.

On Dec. 13, I visited the new congregation in Clearfield Co., preached three sermons to interesting crowds, had one accession by relation, others were counting the cost; and if I had had the time to have con-

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tinued longer I think a number of others would have come, but I had to return to my home work. I expect to visit them soon again.

At our regular service here on last Sunday evening when the usual hymn of invitation was sung a dear young heart came forward and was baptized on Thursday, the 22; others are counting the cost. We hope others will soon be added to the list of the saved.

So the good work goes on. May God bless the work everywhere.

J. F. KOONTZ.

Notes From Gratis, Ohio

The EVANGELIST is a welcome visitor to our home. Could not well be without it. The editorials are excellent, the literature first class, the church news inspiring, neatly printed on good paper and clear type. The Publishing House is the property of the church and should be patronized by all.

The mission work must not be neglected. It is the life of the church. It is the spirit of Christianity. Chicago, Washington City, Dayton are interesting mission points for the Brethren church. We should have a house of our own in Washington City, the nation's capital. From what I can learn Brother Lyon is the right man in the right place. He can be trusted, he has the cause at heart. Let us encourage him in a substantial way. Our sympathy and prayers are all right but God will not do for us what we are able to do ourselves. It takes money. This has been a fruitful year and God has blessed us. Let us show our gratitude by sending means to Brother Lyon to erect a house of worship.

Ashland College for once in its history is out of debt and is the property of the church. A school is now in progress in a small way conducted by Brother John Allen Miller. It is in good hands and deserves our support. To make it a success and more useful it needs support—money and students. Brethren send your sons and daughters to your own school. The other day I saw a notice in a paper of a man from Indiana visiting Buchtel College at Akron and before leaving gave his check for a thousand dollars as donation. Have we not some brethren who have plenty of means to make donations to our College, a New Year's gift.

A Pleasant Surprise.—It is said that example is contagious and that custom makes law, and as it seems to be the custom that when the preacher receives a donation from his congregation, to show his appreciation he sends it to the editor for publication in the church paper, and I am sure I have no objection to this. Of course the Good Book says when we give alms not to sound the trumpet. But I don't know of any scripture forbidding the use of the trumpet in receiving gifts, rather in favor, for when our Savior had healed a man he told him to go home and tell what great things the Lord had done for him, and as our people are rather modest and know nothing of this publication I will put it rather mild,

On last Saturday afternoon, just before Christmas, and they exercised good judgment and know the fitness of things, our brethren and sisters by scores came in upon us and the thing was well planned for they took us by complete surprise, and they did not come empty handed either for in a short time our table was just loaded and our larder was well filled with the good things of life too numerous to mention, which we appreciate very much and are truly thankful and especially for the goodness of heart that prompted the act. May the good Lord abundantly bless them all is our prayer.

After spending a few hours in a social way and a few short addresses by the pastor and his wife and the offering of prayer to our kind heavenly Father from whom all our blessings come, they bid us good bye wishing each other a merry Christmas and returned to their homes.

The Winchester church is in a healthy condition, all in peace and love with a few exceptions, a few spiritual dyspeptics as you will find everywhere. We have services every week, good interest, good congregations. An evergreen Sunday-school, a sisters' society well organized and doing good work. Our church was newly painted and cement walks around the house and all paid for. And the Stover family built a new, neat and comfortable parsonage near the church and invited the preacher and his wife to move into and enjoy it and here you will find us with the latch string always out and you all know what this means. Try it. We expect to commence a series of meetings in the near future to be continued several weeks or more to which services every body is cordially invited and we pray for success.

While we have many pleasant remembrances of the past year we are sad to chronicle the death of one of our young sisters by that dread disease, consumption. Amanda Himes only 17 years, 7 months. It is sad to think that one so young and promising should be taken away so early in life. But she was ready and fully resigned. We mourn her departure but not without hope and believe that our loss is her gain.

At the writing of this article Christmas is past and the New Year will soon come in. We wish the EVANGELIST family a happy and prosperous New Year.

JOSIAH KEIM.

Twelve Mile, Ind.

Tho our pen has been silent our hands and head have been kept busy. On October 17, we began protracted meetings at New Enterprise and continued about three weeks. The rain continued just as long and finally rained us out. Yet the Lord was with us, and there were five additions to the church, by confession and baptism, with many more counting the cost. Yesterday, December 25, was our appointment here and on Saturday evening, one, a husband and father for whom we had looked and prayed for four years, responded to the invitation and made the good confession. Oh, how our hearts rejoice to